

**REPORT/RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
OF SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA  
AND RECORD OF ACTION**

**37**

**May 4, 2004**

**FROM:** JAMES A. FELTEN, Public Health Director  
Department of Public Health

**SUBJECT: APPLICATION TO THE CALIFORNIA ENDOWMENT FOR HEAD LICE  
TRAINING AND EDUCATION**

**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve submission of a grant application to the California Endowment, in the amount of \$50,000, for head lice training and education, for the period September 1, 2004 through March 31, 2006.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** This item requests approval for submission of a grant application to the California Endowment, in the amount of \$50,000 for head lice training and education, for the period September 1, 2004 through March 31, 2006.

The California Endowment was created in 1996 as a result of Blue Cross of California's conversion to WellPoint Health Networks and is currently one of California's largest health care foundations. The California Endowment, through its Local Opportunities Fund, provides funding to organizations addressing important health issues at the local level.

Head lice infestation is an easily treatable occurrence. With San Bernardino County's children and youth representing nearly 32% of the total County's population, the occurrence of head lice infestation in school-aged children is alarming, most often resulting in multiple school days missed for the affected child. Children with reoccurring outbreaks may miss over 40 days of school in a given year. Head lice are easily treatable, and if treated properly and quickly, a child can return to school having missed a minimal number of school days. The most common barriers to immediate and proper treatment of head lice include public misconception, lack of adequate resources for treatment products, and inadequate or inappropriate educational materials.

In the application, the Department proposes to develop, reproduce and distribute a head lice training video to educate parents and school staff on the prevention and treatment of head lice outbreaks. The video will be produced in both English and Spanish. Additionally, school staff will receive direct training regarding head lice. A brochure will be developed, in English and Spanish, for distribution to parents, and head lice products will be purchased for distribution to schools that have a larger ratio of low-income families. All grant activities will be conducted by current department health education staff.

The application is due to the California Endowment no later than May 10, 2004.

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**REVIEW AND APPROVAL BY OTHERS:** This item has been reviewed by County Counsel (Charles Larkin, Deputy County Counsel, (909) 387-4177) on April 21, 2004. This item has also been reviewed by County Administrative Office (Beatriz Valdez, Administrative Analyst, (909) 386-8145) on April 22, 2004.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:** Approval of this item requires no local County cost. All expenditures will be fully reimbursed by the California Endowment. The Department will return to the Board to accept and budget any funds resulting from this application.

**COST REDUCTION REVIEW:** The County Administrative Office has reviewed this item and recommends its approval as it will impose no local cost to the County and will allow the Department to better meet the health needs of San Bernardino County residents.

**SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT(S):** All

**PRESENTER:** James A. Felten, Public Health Director, (909) 387-9146

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